

INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: City Council Members
Management Staff

FROM: Terry Schmal, Planning and Development Director

DATE: February 7, 2006

SUBJECT: COMPARISON OF RATES OF POPULATION GROWTH

With the impending adoption of the City's new Growth Management System there has been a great deal of discussion about the impacts of growth regulation. It has been my contention that Kingsburg's growth management policies, first instituted in 1988, have moderated the ups and downs of housing construction, but the overall rate of growth is similar to that of surrounding jurisdictions. Growth management policies have prevented Kingsburg's highs from being as high, but because of the resulting pent-up demand, the lows have not been as low.

The table below compares populations from the 1990 Census, 2000 Census and 2005 State Department of Finance estimates. Even though the recently-released 2005 State estimate shows almost no growth in Kingsburg during the previous year (an increase of just 38 residents), these statistics indicate that Kingsburg has grown 56 percent in 15 years. That's a higher rate of growth than Selma (52 percent), a 20 percent faster rate than Fresno County as a whole, and more than double the growth rate of the State, even though Kingsburg operated under growth management policies the entire period.

This is important information to share with economic development clients who may be misled into believing that the City is choking off growth and suppressing development of a customer pool. The real point of growth management is to avoid rates of growth that create adverse physical and social impacts that hurt the business community as well as the residential population. Consistent moderate growth enables the City to plan for and provide necessary infrastructure and services and allows the community to absorb and involve new residents. In the final analysis, the City is able to manage change in such a way that it stays the same in terms of its character and quality of life. That which makes Kingsburg a special place to live should also make it an attractive place to do business.

Comparison of population growth - State, Fresno County, City of Selma, City of Kingsburg (Note: Kingsburg implemented its growth management policies calling for a 3 percent rate in 1988)						
Jurisdiction	Census 1990 Population	Census 2000 Population	State Estimate 2005 Population	1990 to 2005 Numeric Change	1990 to 2005 Percent Change	Average Increase (with com- pounding)
California	29,760,021	33,871,648	36,810,358	7,050,337	23.7%	1.5%
Fresno County	667,490	799,407	883,537	216,047	32.4%	2.0%
Selma	14,757	19,444	22,411	7,654	51.9%	3.0%
Kingsburg	7,205	9,199	11,237	4,032	56.0%	3.2%